

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A solid homogeneous ~~A~~ ant dripping fluoropolymer concentrate consisting ~~essentially~~ of ~~[[a]]~~ fluoropolymer granules of from 5 μ m to 1,000 μ m coated by ~~powder~~ and a flame retardant selected from brominated epoxy resins enveloping said powder, for easily compounding and evenly dispersing within a base thermoplastic resin, in the form of a bulk of a solidified suspension being a fluoropolymer powder evenly dispersed in a flame retardant selected from brominated epoxy resins, said epoxy resins being in the molten state, said suspension having been allowed to solidify thereby forming said bulk block and, optionally, additives selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet and light stabilizers, UV screeners, UV absorbers, release agents, lubricants, colorants, plasticizers, fillers, blowing agents, heat stabilizers, antioxidants, reinforcement additives, impact modifiers, and processing aids.
2. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein said concentrate is in the form of particles consisting of particles, said particles comprising one or more fluoropolymers and one or more flame retardants.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the said fluoropolymer is selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), poly(hexafluoroethylene), poly(tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoroethylene), and poly(tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene-propylene).
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the said flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of brominated epoxy resins, high molecular weight brominated epoxy resins, modified brominated epoxy resins, low molecular weight brominated epoxy resins, partly end-capped brominated epoxy resins with fatty acid, and their mixtures.

7. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 1, containing an amount of the fluoropolymer from 0.1 wt% to 60 wt%.
8. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 7, containing an amount of the fluoropolymer from 0.5 wt% to 20 wt%.
9. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant has a melting point below 300 °C.
10. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant is obtained from precursors having a melting point below 300 °C.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein the flame retardant has ~~retardants or the flame retardant precursors having~~ a melt viscosity lower than 10,000 cp.
13. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 12, wherein the said flame retardants or said flame retardant precursors has ~~have~~ a melt viscosity lower than 2,000 cp.
14. (Withdrawn) Process for making a composition according to claim 2, which comprises melting a flame retardant, mixing the fluoropolymer with said molten flame retardant, allowing the mixture to solidify and particulating the solidified mixture.
15. (Withdrawn) Process for making a composition according to claim 2, which comprises providing flame retardant precursors in molten condition, mixing said precursors with a fluoropolymer and optionally with a catalyst, reacting said precursors to

form a molten flame retardant mixed with said fluoropolymer, allowing the mixture to solidify and particulating the solidified mixture.

16. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer matrix and an additive composition according to claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 16, wherein the polymer matrix comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, impact polystyrene, styrene copolymers, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene terpolymers (ABS), alloys of ABS such as polycarbonate/ABS, alloys of polystyrene such as polyphenylene oxide/polystyrene, polycarbonates, polycarbonate alloys with PBT or polyamide, polyesters such as polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyamide resins such as polyamide 6 and 66, styrene acrylonitrile copolymer (SAN), polyphenylene ether (PPE), polyester carbonate and blends of the aforesaid polymers.

18. (Withdrawn) Process for making a thermoplastic composition according to claim 16, which comprise the steps of compounding the polymer matrix with the additive composition and optionally with other additives.

19. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 18, wherein the polymer matrix and the additive composition, and optionally the other additives, are compounded in an apparatus selected from the group consisting of extruders, batch mixers and internal mixers.

20. (Withdrawn) Plastic articles made by extruding or molding a thermoplastic composition according to claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn) Master batch containing the composition of claim 1 in a thermoplastic carrier.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 2, wherein the said fluoropolymers are selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), poly(hexafluoroethylene), poly(tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoroethylene), and poly(tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene-propylene).

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 2 ~~25~~, wherein the said flame retardants are selected from the group consisting of brominated epoxy resins, high molecular weight brominated epoxy resins, modified brominated epoxy resins, low molecular weight brominated epoxy resins, partly end-capped brominated epoxy resins with fatty acid, and their mixtures.

28. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 2, containing an amount of the fluoropolymer from 0.1 wt% to 60 wt%.

29. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 28, containing an amount of the fluoropolymer from 0.5 wt% to 20 wt%.

30. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 2, wherein the flame retardant has a melting point below 300° C.

31. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 2, wherein the flame retardant is obtained from precursors having a melting point below 300° C.

32. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer matrix and an additive composition according to claim 2.
33. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 32, wherein the polymer matrix comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, impact polystyrene, styrene copolymers, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene terpolymers (ABS), alloys of ABS such as polycarbonate/ABS, alloys of polystyrene such as polyphenylene oxide/polystyrene, polycarbonates, polycarbonate alloys with PBT or polyamide, polyesters such as polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyamide resins such as polyamide 6 and 66, styrene acrylonitrile copolymer (SAN), polyphenylene ether (PPE), polyester carbonate and blends of the aforesaid polymers.
34. (Withdrawn) Process for making a thermoplastic composition according to claim 32, which comprise the steps of compounding the polymer matrix with the additive composition and optionally with other additives.
35. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 34, wherein the polymer matrix and the additive composition, and optionally the other additives, are compounded in an apparatus selected from the group consisting of extruders, batch mixers and internal mixers.
36. (Withdrawn) Plastic articles made by extruding or molding a thermoplastic composition according to claim 32.
37. (Canceled)
38. (Canceled)
39. (New) The concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the concentrate is in the form of a bulk block.

40. (New) The concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant is obtained by reacting flame retardant precursors in the presence of a catalyst.